

In the Claims

1. A vehicle weatherseal for releasably contacting a panel, the weatherseal comprising:
  - (a) a panel contacting portion for releasably contacting the panel; and
  - (b) a reflective surface on the panel contacting portion.
2. The vehicle weatherseal of Claim 1, wherein the reflective surface includes a multitude of reflective particles.
3. The vehicle weatherseal of Claim 2, wherein the multitude of reflective particles form friction reducing projections.
4. The vehicle weatherseal of Claim 1, wherein the panel contacting portion includes a substrate, the reflective surface being located on the substrate and the reflective surface having a lower coefficient of friction than the substrate.
5. The vehicle weatherseal of Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of surface roughness forming friction reducing particles.
6. A reflective vehicular weatherseal, comprising:
  - (a) a polymeric substrate having a vehicle engaging portion and an exposed surface; and
  - (b) a multitude of reflective particles embedded in at least a portion of the exposed surface.
7. The reflective vehicular weatherseal of Claim 6, wherein the particles are embedded a sufficient distance to preclude unintended separation from the polymeric substrate.
8. The reflective vehicular weatherseal of Claim 6, further comprising a bonding agent intermediate a portion of the particles and the substrate.
9. An automotive weatherseal, comprising:

- (a) a weatherseal body; and
- (b) a powder coating on the weatherseal body, wherein the powder coating includes reflective particles.

10. The automotive weatherseal of Claim 9, wherein the weatherseal body is a thermoset material and the powder coating comprises a thermoplastic material.

11. The automotive weatherseal of Claim 9, wherein the powder coating is heat fusible.

13. The weatherseal of Claim 9, wherein the powder coating comprises a thermoset.

14. The weatherseal of Claim 9, wherein the powder coating comprises a thermoplastic.

15. The weatherseal of Claim 9, wherein the weatherseal body includes a trim portion and the powder coating is located on the trim portion.

16. The weatherseal of Claim 9, further comprising a metallic reinforcing member in the polymeric weatherseal body.

17. The weatherseal of Claim 9, further comprising a sealing portion and a trim portion, wherein the trim portion is formed of a different material than the sealing portion, and the powder coating is on at least a portion of the trim portion.

18. An automotive weatherseal comprising;  
(a) a weatherseal body; and  
(b) a reflective powder coating on at least a portion of the weatherseal body.

19. The automotive weatherseal of Claim 18, wherein the reflective powder coating is heat fusible.

20. The weatherseal of Claim 18, wherein the reflective powder coating comprises a thermoset.

21. The weatherseal of Claim 18, wherein the reflective powder coating comprises a thermoplastic.

22. The weatherseal of Claim 18, wherein the polymeric weatherseal body includes a trim portion and the reflective powder coating is located on the trim portion.

23. The weatherseal of Claim 18, further comprising a metallic reinforcing member in the polymeric weatherseal body.

24. The weatherseal of Claim 18, further comprising a sealing portion and a trim portion, wherein the trim portion is formed of a different material than the sealing portion, and the reflective powder coating is on the trim portion.

25. An automotive weatherseal comprising a reflective cord extending along a length of the weatherseal.

26. The automotive weatherseal of Claim 25, wherein the reflective cord includes a plurality of reflective filaments.

27. An automotive weatherseal comprising a reflective flock extending along a length of the weatherseal.

28. The automotive weatherseal of Claim 27, wherein the reflective flock includes a flocked reflective material.

29. The automotive weatherseal of Claim 27, wherein the reflective flock includes a non reflective material.

30. An automotive weatherseal comprising an extruded reflective surface extending along a length of the weatherseal.

31. An automotive weatherseal comprising a molded reflective surface.

32. The automotive weatherseal of Claim 31, wherein the molded reflective surface substantially defines a cross section of the weatherseal.

33. A method of forming a vehicular weatherstrip comprising extruding a reflective extrudate to locate the reflective extrudate as a surface of a weatherseal body.

34. The method of Claim 33, further comprising extruding the reflective extrudate and the weatherseal body to form an integral structure.

35. The method of Claim 33, further comprising coextruding the reflective extrudate and the weatherseal body.

36. The method of Claim 33, further comprising simultaneously extruding the reflective extrudate and the weatherseal body.

37. The method of Claim 33, further comprising curing one of the reflective extrudate and the weatherseal body.

38. The method of Claim 33, further comprising extruding the reflective extrudate onto a dynamic sealing portion of the weatherseal.

39. The method of Claim 33, further comprising extruding one of a formed reflective tape and a formed reflective thread as the reflective extrudate.

40. The method of Claim 33, further comprising extruding a formed reflective cloth as the reflective extrudate.

41. The method of Claim 33 further comprising extruding the reflective extrudate as a portion of the weatherseal body.

42. A method of forming a weatherseal having a contact surface for engaging a panel, comprising:

(a) forming a mixture of a reflective material and a friction reducing material; and

(b) extruding the mixture onto at least a portion of the contact surface of the weatherseal.

43. The method of Claim 42, wherein extruding the mixture includes coextruding the mixture with the contact surface.

44. A method of forming a weatherseal comprising impacting a multitude of reflective particles with an exposed surface of a weatherseal to retain at least a portion of the multitude of particles in the surface of the weatherseal.

45. The method of Claim 44, further comprising incorporating the multitude of reflective particles with a bonding agent.

46. The method of Claim 44, further comprising impacting the multitude of reflective particles with a bonding agent on the weatherseal.

47. A method of forming a weatherseal comprising molding a reflective material to form a portion of a cross section of the weatherseal, the reflective material forming a reflective surface of the weatherseal.

48. The method of Claim 47, wherein the reflective material forms a majority of the cross section.

49. A method of forming a weatherseal comprising extruding a polymeric weatherseal body and applying a reflective textile to form an integral structure.

50. The method of Claim 49, wherein applying the reflective textile includes applying a single reflective filament.

51. The method of Claim 49, wherein applying the reflective textile includes extruding a reflective cloth.

52. The method of Claim 49, wherein applying the reflective textile includes extruding a single reflective filament.

53. The method of Claim 49, wherein applying the reflective textile includes simultaneously extruding a single reflective filament.

54. A method of forming a reflective surface on a weatherseal, comprising:

- (a) retaining a reflective powder coating on the weatherseal; and
- (b) colliquefying the retained reflective powder coating to form the reflective surface.

55. The method of Claim 54, further comprising electrostatically retaining the reflective powder coating on the weatherseal.

56. The method of Claim 54, further comprising forming the weatherseal of a polymeric material.

57. A method of forming a reflective surface film on a weatherseal, comprising:

- (a) retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and
- (b) colliquefying the retained powder coating to form the reflective surface film.

58. A method of forming a weatherseal comprising extruding a weatherseal body to incorporate a reflective material, the reflective material forming a reflective surface of the weatherseal.

59. The method of Claim 58, further comprising forming a portion of the weatherseal of the reflective material.

60. The method of Claim 58, further comprising forming one of a carrier portion, a trim portion and a sealing portion of the reflective material.